

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAKAR 01371 061032Z

171

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01 /097 W

----- 029324

R 051809Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4087

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

"AMEMBASSY BANJUL (BY POUCH)

UNCLAS DAKAR 1371

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SS SG

SUBJ: SENEGALESE POSITION ON WESTERN SAHARA UNCHANGED

1. SUMMARY: ON MARCH 3, FORNMIN SECK PUBLICLY REAFFIRMED GOS VIEW ON SAHARA, ASSERTING THAT ANY SIMILARITY WITH MOROCCO'S POSITION WAS COINCIDENTAL. HE SAID THERE WERE AMPLE PRECEDENTS FOR RETURNING TERRITORY WITHOUT REFERENDUM, BUT SUGGESTED MISSION OF ENQUIRY COULD BE SENT TO CONFIRM THAT POPULACE HAD BEEN CONSULTED ADEQUATELY. SENEGAL'S RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA REMAINED GOOD AND SENEGAL WAS PREPARED TO ASSIST ANY ACTION TO REDUCE TENSION IN AREA. SECK ACKNOWLEDGED MEETING WITH POLISARIO LEADERS AND SAID HE THOUGHT RECOGNITION BY OTHER COUNTRIES OF STATE PROCLAIMED BY POLISARIO WOULD DEPEND ON ITS CONTROL OF TERRITORY.

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PAGE 02 DAKAR 01371 061032Z

END SUMMARY.

2. IN MARCH 3 PRESS CONFERENCE, SENEGALESE FOREIGN-MINISTER SECK REITERATED SENEGALESE POSITION ON WESTERN SAHARA. HE NOTED ICJ FINDING THAT TIES BETWEEN SAHARA AND MAURITANIA AND MOROCCO HAD EXISTED BEFORE ADVENT OF SPANISH AND SAID, "IF THERE ARE LINKS, IT IS NECESSARY TO HAND BACK OVER THE TERRITORY." THIS WOULD NOT BE FIRST TIME, HE SAID, THAT TERRITORY "WAS RETURNED TO ITS PROPRIETOR WITHOUT REFERENDUM." HE SAID SENEGAL CONTINUES TO DEFEND SELF-DETERMINATION, BUT PRINCIPLE HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN APPLIED. SECK CITED PREVIOUS RETURN OF COLONIAL ENCLAVES TO MOROCCO AND INDIA AND ASSERTED THAT, WHEN CASES OF MACAO AND HONG KONG POSE THEMSELVES, THEY WILL BE RETURNED TO CHINA IN SAME FASHION AS "SHANGHAI CONCESSIONS" OF US, UK AND FRANCE.

3. HOWEVER, SECK ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ICJ HAD CONCLUDED THAT PRE-COLONIAL TIES HAD NOT BEEN THOSE OF SOVEREIGNTY AND HAD DIRECTED THAT POPULATION BE CONSULTED. SECK QUESTIONED WHETHER REFERENDUM WOULD HAVE BEEN MEANINGFUL IN COUNTRY WHERE SPANISH HAD OUTNUMBERED THE SAHARANS AND POSSESSED AMPLE MEANS OF INFLUENCE. IN TRIBAL SOCIETY, SECK FELT IT ENTIRELY PLAUSIBLE THAT JEMAA WAS REPRESENTATIVE BODY. (EVEN IN SENEGAL, HE SAID, THERE WERE VILLAGES WHERE LOCAL PEOPLE LOOKED TO LEADERSHIP OF TRADITIONAL CHIEFS). HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF POLISARIO'S CLAIM TO HAVE MAJORITY OF JEMAA MEMBERS, PERHAPS OUTSIDE MISSION OF ENQUIRY OR COMMISSION OF CONCILIATION COULD BE SENT TO CLARIFY SITUATION.

4. SECK SAID ANY COINCIDENCE BETWEEN SENEGALESE AND MOROCCAN POSITION ON WESTERN SAHARA WAS WHOLLY COINCIDENTAL, AS GOS HAD REACHED POSITION ON BASIS OF ITS OWN PRINCIPLES. "SENEGAL MAINTAINS VERY GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA" WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN AFFECTED IN SPITE OF (POLEMICAL) ATTACKS. SECK ALSO POINTED TO RELATIONS OF COOPERATION AND AMITY WITH MAURITANIA AND MOROCCO AND SAID SENEGAL WAS READY TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH ANY ACTION CAPABLE OF REDUCING TENSION IN REGION.

5. SECK DISMISSED SIGNIFICANCE OF REPORTED GIAP MEETING WITH POLISARIO, POINTING OUT THAT HE HIMSELF HAD MET WITH POLISARIO LEADERS FOR OVER ONE HOUR TO RECEIVE EXPLANATION OF THEIR POSITION  
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PAGE 03 DAKAR 01371 061032Z

AND STATE SENEGALESE PRINCIPLES.

6. SECK SAID OAU RECOGNITION OF POLISARIO AS LIBERATION MOVEMENT WOULD HAVE REQUIRED PRIOR DETERMINATION THAT MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA WERE ACTING IN FASHION OF "FOREIGN COLONIALISTS." OAU HAD WISELY DECIDED THAT SINCE INDEPENDENT STATE HAD BEEN PROCLAIMED, ONE SHOULD NO LONGER SPEAK OF LIBERATION MOVEMENT. WITH RESPECT TO RECOGNITION OF STATE PROCLAIMED BY POLISARIO,

SECK SAID THAT MANY COUNTRIES IN CASE OF ANGOLA HAD LINKED  
RECOGNITION TO CONDITIONS SUCH AS CONTROL OF ADMINISTRATION  
AND OCCUPATION OF ENTIRE TERRITORY. EH THOUGHT SAME ATTITUDE  
WOULD BE ADOPTED TOWARD SAHARA. ON THIS BASIS, SENEGALESE  
POSITION REMAINED UNCHANGED.  
AGGREY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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